

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 24, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

--As shown in Figure 6, a Spec Reader Iterator 608 is used to retrieve the specification.

5 The Spec Reader Iterator 608 is responsible for obtaining the specification text from the specified source, determining the contexts via a filter 606, preprocessing the specification text, and providing an interface to an iterator 610 to iterate through the various contexts and their specifications. The responsible class, Getassert 210, iterates through the documentation and creates an internal representation of the input specification. The 10 Getassert class 210 provides the public method Specification getSpec() which is used by other components of the specification tracking system or an external application to get an instance of Specification class.--

Please replace the Abstract on page 31, with the following rewritten Abstract:

15 --Embodiments are ~~An invention is~~ disclosed for automated acquisition of assertions in a specification of a computer program~~is disclosed~~. An input specification is received, wherein the input specification comprises a plurality of sentences. Then, a sentence is obtained from the plurality of sentences, and a determination is made as to whether the obtained sentence is a testable assertion. Next, the obtained sentence is marked as testable 20 when the obtained sentence is a testable assertion. Some aspects of the present invention can identify a context within the specification, and obtain the sentence from the plurality of sentences by parsing the context. Moreover, the marked obtained sentence can be added to an assertion result set. Generally, the context is a set of circumstances related to the obtained sentence. Further, each assertion can comprise one, two, or more sentences 25 of the specification.--